

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 10-21 were pending. Claims 1-6, 10-11, and 14-19 have been canceled. Claims 12 and 21 have been amended. Claims 12-13 and 20-21 presently are pending.

Claims 12-13 and 18-21 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite on the basis that the phrase "ultrahigh molecular weight" is vague and indefinite, as "ultrahigh" in independent claims 12 and 21 is a relative term. Claims 12 and 21 have been amended to address the Examiner's concern and are submitted as particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter of the invention. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification on page 2, lines 14-15.

The Examiner asserts that the phrase "the ultrahigh molecular weight polymer" lacks proper antecedent basis in claim 18 and that it is unclear as to what is meant by the term "BASF Oppanol B-246" in claim 19. Claims 18 and 19 have been canceled.

Claims 12-13 and 20-21 are submitted as allowable.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: January 2, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Stephen A. Soffen

Registration No.: 31,063

Peter McGee

Registration No.: 35,947

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &
OSHINSKY LLP

2101 L Street NW

Washington, DC 20037-1526

(202) 785-9700

Attorneys for Applicant